



SR1644

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Lester M. Brown of Danville, who passed away on February 29, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Lester Brown was born in Chicago to Robert L. and Melissa Pauline Dixon Brown on September 1, 1938; he began attending school in Cairo, and then after moving to Danville, he attended Douglas Grade School, graduating 8th grade as class valedictorian; he also attended Danville High School and Danville Area Community College, where he received an Associate Degree in Accounting; he served as a military police officer in the United States Army from 1956 to 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Lester Brown was employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Internal Revenue Service; after retiring from the Internal Revenue Service, he and his wife opened Brown's Accounting and Tax Service, serving the Danville community for 34 years; he was also employed with East Central Illinois Community Action Agency as Deputy Director; and

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WHEREAS, Lester Brown served as an Alderman on the Danville City Council from 1987 to 2003; he was the first African-American on the council after a 1987 federal court

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1 consent decree established the city's mayor-aldermanic form of
2 government; while on the council, he served two terms as
3 Vice-Mayor; he also served as City Treasurer from 2004 to 2007;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Lester Brown was a former member of the Danville
6 Rotary Club; the Downtown Danville Rotary Club; Corinthian
7 Lodge #31 F & AM, Prince Hall Affiliated, State of Illinois;
8 the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency Governing
9 Board of Directors; the Danville Housing Authority Board; and
10 Scoutmaster, Troop 302, Laura Lee Fellowship House; he was
11 fundamental in organizing the Boys and Girls Club of Danville,
12 serving on the board for many years; he also served on the
13 Vermilion County Health Center Board and with Habitat for
14 Humanity, and Faith in Action; and

15 WHEREAS, Lester Brown was a former member of the Union
16 Missionary Baptist Church and served as church Treasurer; he
17 was a member of the Carter Metropolitan Christian Methodist
18 Episcopal Church, where he has served as a member of the
19 Steward Board and chaired that board for many years; he was
20 also the drummer in the church band and served on the Chicago
21 District Lay Council; and

22 WHEREAS, Lester Brown received numerous awards and
23 recognitions, including the Silver Beaver Scouting Award, the

1 Paul Harris Fellow Rotarian Award, and the Danville Small
2 Business Award; he was especially proud of being a Scoutmaster
3 and was chosen to be a part of the national committee to revise
4 the Scout Handbook; and

5 WHEREAS, Lester Brown loved jazz music and played the drums
6 with the Main Course Jazz Band; he enjoyed cooking, reading,
7 gardening, and fishing with his friend, Carl Alexander; and

8 WHEREAS, Lester Brown was preceded in death by his parents;
9 his daughter; 3 brothers; and 2 sisters; and

10 WHEREAS, Lester Brown is survived by his wife of 35 years,
11 Brenda Collier Brown; his 5 children, Norvel Colemon, Adam
12 (Emma) Brown, Amy (Anthony) Thomas, Jason Brown, and Leslie
13 (Donnell) Wilson; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren;
14 his adopted children, Paula (Archel) Young, Michael Young,
15 Thomas Morgan, and Kecia (Brian) Mason; his three sisters,
16 Janice Washington, Leoda Brown, and Forgenia (Charles) Smith;
17 and his five brothers, Larry Brown, Wayne Brown, Alvarez
18 Severado, James (Verane) Young, and Marsiellis (Susan) Brown;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
22 Lester M. Brown, and extend our sincere condolences to his

1 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Lester Brown as an expression of our
5 deepest sympathy.